

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 9-20 were previously pending in the application. Claims 9-11 and 16 are canceled and new claim 21 is added. Therefore, claims 12-15 and 17-21 are presented for consideration.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 12-15 and 17-20 are allowable. In reliance thereon, claims 12, 17 and 18 are rewritten in independent form. In addition, new claim 21 is added based on claim 13 in independent form.

Claims 12, 13, 17 and 18 are amended to remove the reference characters to address the claim objection noted in the Official Action.

Claims 13 and 18 are amended to include the proper phases. Claims 14 and 15 are amended to include a structural element that performs the flow rate control. Claim 16 is canceled and claims 17 and 18 are amended to positively recite steps in the method. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection as to claims 13-20 is respectfully requested.

Canceling claims 9-11 and 16 is believed to obviate the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) over Japanese Patent Publication No. 09-239024 in view of Japanese Patent No. 4-70909.

As the claims remaining in the application are indicated as allowable and as the formal matters are believed to be addressed, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the claim fee of \$220 for one extra independent claim added herewith to our credit card.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Liam McDowell/
Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

LM/lrs